

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

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PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 051446Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 6/5/75

TAGS: PFOR, UN, LE, XF

SUBJECT: UNSYG VISIT TO LEBANON, JUNE 2-4

SUMMARY: DR. WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO LEBANON HIGHLIGHTED BY HIS ASSURANCES, IN PRESS INTERVIEW, THAT LEBANSSE HAD NO REASON TO FEAR THAT LEBANON'S SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WOULD BE BYPASSED IN ME SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. HE ASSERTED THAT THERE COULD BE NO COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION IN ME WITHOUT RESOLVING PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN LEBANON AND NOTED THAT GOL PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE "NATURAL" WHEN PALESTINIAN SUBJECT DISCUSSED. HE IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR UN FORCES ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER. END SUMMARY.

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1. LEADING OFF HIS ME TRIP WITH TWO-DAY VISIT TO LEBANON, UNSYG

DR. WALDHEIM DELIVERED OPENING SPEECH AT ECWA CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT AND HELD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE, PM SOLH AND OTHER GOL OFFICIALS. WHILE NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED, IT WAS APPARENT THAT LATTER DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON CURRENT LEBANESE PREOCCUPATION WITH IMMEDIATE SECURITY CONCERNS. (IN WAKE OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD, LEBANESE FEEL INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE TO BOTH SURGE OF FEDAYEEN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND FURTHER ISRAELI ATTACKS.)

2. UNSYG, IN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO REASSURE GOL AND LEBANESE PEOPLE, GAVE PRESS INTERVIEW TO LEADING DAILY AN NAHAR. NOTING ANXIETY OF "CERTAIN GOL OFFICIALS", HE STATED THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, EMPHASIZING THAT THERE COULD BE NO COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WITHOUT SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION UNCLUDING THAT OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON.

3. RE GOL PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE, DR. WALDHEIM SAID THAT WAS MATTER FOR GOL TO DECIDE, ADDING THAT HE HAD TOLD LEBANESE OFFICIALS THAT GOL PARTICIPATION WOULD BE "NATURAL" WHEN PALESTINIAN SUBJECT DISCUSSED.

4. UNSYG FINESSED ISSUE OF STATIONING UN FORCES ON LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER, STATING THAT QUESTION WAS MATTER FOR SC TO DECIDE. HOWEVER, HE DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN UN FORCES POSTED ELSEWHERE IN AREA AND SITUATION IN LEBANON.

5. COMMENT: DR. WALDHEIM'S ASSURANCES, WHILE HARDLY CONCRETE, APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY LEBANESE AND CONSTITUTED HIGH POINT OF HIS VISIT. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, ONE NOTE OF RESERVATION. DEFENSE MINISTER MAALOUF MADE SUBSEQUENT COMMENT TO PRESS THAT UNSYG, IN AFFIRMING THAT PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED, HAD EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED "INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE" FOR LEBANON.

6. EMBASSY PRESUMES THAT QUESTION OF POSSIBLE LEBANESE-ISRAELI EXCHANGE OF CAPTIVES WAS ALSO RAISED IN PRIVATE TALKS, AND NOTES PRESS DESPATCH QUOTING UNSYG AS SAYING IN KUNEITRA THAT EXCHANGE WOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY. GODLEY

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